

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY SENATOR JOHN SMITH

A RESOLUTION

To commend Fort Polk Fire Chief Emeritus Michael L. Kuk for being inducted into the Military Firefighter Heritage Foundation Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the citizens of this state and the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the honor bestowed upon Fort Polk Fire Chief Emeritus Michael L. Kuk for being inducted into the Military Firefighter Heritage Foundation Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Michael L. Kuk was inducted on April 28, 2018, as the United States Army's awardee for 2018; and

WHEREAS, the event took place at the Department of Defense Military Fire Academy, located at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Chief Kuk has been a lifelong firefighter, serving as a military, industrial, civilian, and volunteer fire chief at several departments, and is a decorated United States Army Vietnam Veteran; and

WHEREAS, he served as the Long Binh military fire station chief, supervising twenty soldier-firefighters, during his time in Vietnam from 1970-1971; and

WHEREAS, Long Binh was the military's largest constructed and operated base of support and command operations for a theater of war; and

WHEREAS, he was recognized at the awards ceremony for his continued work in the American fire service, still serving as an active volunteer firefighter, chaplain, master musician, historian, and author; and

WHEREAS, Michael L. Kuk is a credentialed and certified chief fire officer, and holds dual fellowships in the Institution of Fire Engineers of Great Britain and Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, this is his third time to be inducted into a hall of fame; he was inducted into the 50-60s Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame in 2006 with his band from the 1960s the "Union Jacks" and then was the first inductee into the United States Army Fire Chiefs Hall of Fame in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Chief Kuk continues to serve in many capacities for both the American and International fire services, traveling abroad with numerous fire service delegations to share knowledge and experience with his foreign counterparts, and is a guest speaker at multiple fire service events; and

WHEREAS, he has been a published fire service author since 1972, and has written many landmark articles and booklets about rare firefighting history and incidents that have shaped the direction of how firefighters undertake their careers, training, and historical accounts; and

WHEREAS, he is currently writing a memoir about his time in Vietnam as an Army firefighter; and

WHEREAS, as a professional union musician, he performs on the keyboard and as a vocalist at many firefighter, military, and civil ceremonies throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, the award was co-presented by Chief G. Keith Bryant, the United States Fire Administrator and the Chairman of the Military Firefighter Heritage Foundation, Michael D. Robertson; and

WHEREAS, the strength of our communities and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of men like Michael L. Kuk who proudly serve our country and use their considerable talents and resources to benefit future generations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby acknowledge the honor bestowed upon Fort Polk Fire Chief Emeritus Michael L. Kuk for being inducted into the Military Firefighter Heritage Foundation Hall of Fame and wish him much success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Fort Polk Fire Chief Emeritus Michael L. Kuk.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE